

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LOME 00413 242210Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 115173

O 242000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 279

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LOME 0413

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, NI, TO

SUBJECT: ALLEGED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT TO HARM U.S.

- NIGERIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) LOME 0412, (B) LOME 0411 (NOTAL),

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED HAND-DELIVERED LETTER WHICH REACHED DCM AT 1615 HRS FEBRUARY 24. LETTER ASKED EMBASSY OFFICIAL TO MEET AUTHOR IN CULTURAL CENTER ACROSS STREET AND CLAIMED HE HAD PROOF OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT WHICH KILLED MURTALA AND ATTEMPTS TO BLAME U.S. AND U.K. FOR COUP ATTEMPT. (TEXT TRANSMITTED REF A). DCM CONTACTED AND INTERVIEWED WALK-IN.

2. LATTER'S STORY AS GIVEN ORALLY TO DCM AS FOLLOWS:  
HE ARRIVED IN NIGERIA JAN. 21 AS GUEST OF THE "MOVEMENT", COMMUNIST PARTY OF NIGERIA. HIS HOST WAS EBENEZER BABATOPE. VISIT INCLUDED THREE-DAY TOUR TO NORTHERN NIGERIA--KANO, ZARIA, KADUNA

-WHERE HE MET WITH STUDENTS AND YOUTH WHO, HE WAS SURPRISED TO FIND, WERE VERY SOCIALIST ALTHOUGH THEY WERE MUSLIMS. AFTER RETURNING TO LAGOS, HE AND HIS CONGOLESE COMRADE, NGASSAKI, A JOURNALIST FOR ETUMBA, ATTENDED SERIES OF MEETINGS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LOME 00413 242210Z

WITH LEFTIST GROUPS FEB. 8-11 TO PREPARE FOR DEMONSTRATIONS

AGAINST U.S. EMBASSY AND U.K. HIGH COMMISSION. PLACARDS AND MOLOTOV COCKTAILS WERE PREPARED. MEETINGS WERE ADDRESSED BY SOVIET DIPLOMATS, TASS CORRESPONDENTS, AND CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES OF "PRENSA LATINA" (NO NAMES) AS WELL AS NIGERIAN LEFTISTS. NIGERIAN ORGANIZATION BEHIND PLANNED DEMONSTRATION WERE:

1. GRAND AFRICAN MOVEMENT FOR COMMON ACTION (GAMCA) LED BY OLADIPE AKIRINDE; 2. AFRICAN YOUTH COMMAND (NIGERIAN SECTION) LED BY JOHN NYIA NWODO; 3. ORGANIZATION FOR SALVATION OF MODERN AFRICA (OSMA) LED BY FNU MAMA (NICKNAME AMILCAR CABRAL); 4. NIGERIAN SOCIALIST SOCIETY HEADED BY WOLE SOLYNKA; 5. THE "MOVEMENT", NIGERIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (CLANDESTINE), LED BY BABATOPE, A PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS. SOME MEETINGS TOOK PLACE IN HOTEL DE EXECUTIVE IN YABA, WHICH IS COMMUNIST PARTY HQ.

3. PROSPECTIVE DEMONSTRATORS WERE TOLD THAT DEMONSTRATION WOULD TAKE PLACE AFTER ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON MURTALA HAD FAILED AND CIA AND BRITISH WERE BLAMED FOR ATTEMPT. ONLY COMMUNIST PROFESSOR OLA OF UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS OBJECTED TO PLOT AS TOO DANGEROUS AND ONE THAT MIGHT INVOLVE REAL DANGER TO MURTALA. LEFTIST PRESS WERE GIVEN TIME AND LOCATION OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT SO THEY COULD PROVIDE CONVERGENCE OF "CIA ATTEMPT". MBENDSE'S COLLEAGUE NGJSSAKI WAS PRESENT AT MURTALA MURDER AND TOOK PICTURES, INCLUDING TASS REPRESENTATIVE, AT SITE. BOTH WERE OVERWHELMED WHEN PROVOCATION TURNED INTO ACTUAL MURDER

OF MURTALA. MBENDSE DID NOT KNOW DIMKA'S RELATION TO PLOT, BUT WAS SURE HE HAD NO RELATION TO LEFTISTS.

4. MBENDSE WAS NOT CLEAR ON HOW ORIGINAL FAKE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT WAS TO BE BLAMED ON U.S., BUT HE ASSERTED THAT SOVIETS WERE MASTERS AT THIS SORT OF GAME. HE SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, SOVIETS HAD IMPLICATED CHINESE IN DIAWARA AFFAIR FOUR YEARS AGO IN CONGO AND CONGOLESE-CHINESE RELATIONS REMAINED COOL.

5. MBENDSE EXPLAINED HIS MOTIVATION IN COMING TO U.S. EMBASSY AS NEED TO GET TRUTH OF DEATH OF GREAT AFRICAN, GEN. MURTALA, INTM PUBLIC DOMAIN. HE AND NGASSAKI HAD MANY HESITATIONS (REF A) BEFORE MAKING CONTACT. MBENDSE WAS RELUCTANT TO BECOME KNOWN AS SOURCE OF REVELATIONS OF SOVIET INVOLVEMENT SINCE CONGOLSSE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 LOME 00413 242210Z

GOVERNMENT VERY CLOSE TO USSR. IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY, HE WOULD SPEAK OUT AS WITNESS TO LET TRUTH COME OUT. MBENDSE RDTURNING IMMEDIATELY TO ACCRA AND PLANNED TO CONTINUE FEB. 28 ON TRIP TO GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU BEFORE RETURNING TO BRAZZAVILLE. MBENDSE, HOWEVER, AGREED TO RETURN TO LOME FEB. 26 TO MEET AGAIN WITH DCM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST ADDRESSEES ATTEMPT TO CHECK ANY

VERIFIABLE FACTS IN MBENDSE'S ACCOUNT BEFORE MORNING FEB. 26.

7. MBENDSE IS YOUNG, PERSONABLE, AND OBVIOUSLY INTELLIGENT.  
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF SEEMINGLY VERIFIABLE EVENTS IN HIS  
ACCOUNT STAND UP. WHILE GIVING ACCOUNT HE OFTEN READ FROM NOTES  
HE HAD MADE JUST AFTER ASSASSINATION IN MARGINS OF WHAT APPEARED  
TO BE LATIN GRAMMAR.  
RAWLS

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, ALLEGATIONS, PLOTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LOME00413  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760069-0568  
**From:** LOME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760220/aaaaaqwu.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 LOME 412, 76 LOME 411  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGED SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN PLOT TO HARM U.S. - NIGERIAN RELATIONS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, UR, NI, TO, (MBENDSE, C)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006